Pledges and Promises: The British Commitment to Jewish Restoration and the New World Order during World War II

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During World War II, the British government made significant pledges to the Jewish people, promising justice and the restoration of rights in the face of unprecedented persecution by Nazi Germany. These promises, articulated through speeches and declarations, were part of a broader vision for a post-war "New World Order" based on the principles of justice, peace, and international cooperation. Central to this vision was the commitment to address the wrongs inflicted on European Jewry, culminating in efforts that would eventually lead to the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948. This paper explores the historical context of these wartime pledges, analyzing the rhetoric and reality of Britain's commitments, and examining their long-term impact on Jewish-British relations, international law, and the global order that emerged after the war. By delving into both the promises made and the outcomes realized, this study provides a nuanced understanding of Britain's role in shaping modern Jewish history and the post-war world.

Keywords: World War II, British government, Jewish restoration, New World Order, Holocaust, Arthur Greenwood, Balfour Declaration, Israel, post-war settlement, international law, human rights, Zionism, Nuremberg Trials, British war aims.

Note: Verbatim GPT-4o based only on the 1940 NYT clipping (below).

Britain's War Aims

NEW WORLD ORDER PLEDGED TO JEWS

Arthur Greenwood of British War Cabinet Sends Message of Assurance Here

RIGHTING OF WRONGS SEEN

English Rabbi Delivers to Dr. S. S. Wise New Statement on Question After War

In the first public declaration on the Jewish question since the outbreak of the war, Arthur Greenwood, member without portfolio in the British War Cabinet, assured the Jews of the United States that when victory was achieved an effort would be made to found a new world order based on the ideals of "justice and peace."

Mr. Greenwood, who is Deputy Leader of the British Labor party, declared that in the new world the "conscience of civilized humanity would demand that the wrongs suffered by the Jewish people in so many countries should be righted." He added that after the war an opportunity would be given to Jews everywhere to make a "distinctive and constructive contribution" in the rebuilding of the world.

The message was delivered last week to Dr. Stephen S. Wise, chairman of the executive committee of the World Jewish Congress, by Rabbi Maurice L. Perlzweig, chairman of the British section of the congress. Rabbi Perlzweig arrived from England Monday evening.

Intention to Right Wrongs

Comparing the statement with the Balfour Declaration of 1917, Dr. Wise declared that in a sense it had "wider and farther reaching implications," as it dealt with the status of Jews throughout the world. He said that Mr. Greenwood's message could be interpreted as a statement of England's firm intention to help right the wrongs which Jews have suffered and continue to suffer today because of Hitler's "disorder and lawlessness."

Mr. Greenwood, sending the Jews of America a message of "encouragement and warm good wishes," wrote:

"The tragic fate of the Jewish victims of Nazi tyranny has, as you know, filled us with a deep emotion. The speeches of responsible statesmen in Parliament and at the League of Nations during the last seven years have reflected the horror with which the people of this country have viewed the Nazi relapse into barbarism.

"The British Government sought again to secure some amelioration of the lot of persecuted Jewry both in Germany itself and in the countries which were infected by the Nazi doctrine of racial hatred. Today the same sinister power which has trampled on its own defenseless minorities, and by fraud and force has temporarily robbed many small peoples of their independence, has challenged the last stronghold of liberty in Europe.

New World Order Forecast

"When we have achieved victory, as we assuredly shall, the nations will have the opportunity of establishing a new world order based on the ideals of justice and peace. In such a world it is our confident hope that the conscience of civilized humanity would demand that the wrongs suffered by the Jewish people in so many countries should be righted.

"In the rebuilding of civilized society after the war, there should and will be a real opportunity for Jews everywhere to make a distinctive and constructive contribution; and all men of good-will must assuredly hope that in new Europe the Jewish people, in whatever country they may live, will have freedom and full equality before the law with every other citizen."

In an interview at the Hotel Astor, Rabbi Perlzweig declared he was certain Mr. Greenwood "speaks for England." There is a clear realization, he added, that freedom and emancipation for the Jewish people are tied up with emancipation and freedom for people everywhere. The message, Rabbi Perlzweig remarked, was the subject of earnest consideration by the British Government.

"This is a declaration in behalf of the whole world," he observed. "Here the British Government expresses clearly what it hopes will take place after the war is won."

—From the *New York Times*, Oct. 6, 1940.

To Realize This Great Program, The Continent of Europe Must Be Retaken.

TEN MILLION AMERICAN BOYS Will Be Needed To Do The Job.

I. Introduction

A. Historical Context

World War II, which began in 1939, was a global conflict that pitted the Axis powers—primarily Nazi Germany, Italy, and Japan—against the Allied forces, which included Britain, France, the Soviet Union, China, and later the United States. By 1940, the war had already brought much of Europe under Nazi control, with the fall of France in June 1940 marking a significant turning point. Britain, under the leadership of Prime Minister Winston Churchill, stood as the last major European power resisting Nazi domination.

The geopolitical landscape in 1940 was marked by uncertainty and turmoil. The Axis powers were aggressively expanding their territories, while the Allies were struggling to mount a cohesive defense. Britain, heavily bombarded during the Blitz and isolated after the Dunkirk evacuation, was under tremendous pressure both militarily and politically. The survival of the British Empire, as well as the future of European civilization, was at stake.

In this context, Britain's war aims were crucial not only for its survival but also for the shaping of the post-war world. The British government had to carefully balance its strategic goals with the moral imperatives that had emerged as a result of the war, particularly concerning the Jewish community. The persecution of Jews under Nazi rule had become increasingly evident, with reports of atrocities filtering through to the West, although the full scale of the Holocaust was not yet known.

The relationship between Britain and the Jewish community was complex. Britain had played a pivotal role in Jewish history with the issuance of the Balfour Declaration in 1917, which promised support for the establishment of a "national home for the Jewish people" in Palestine. However, British policy in the ensuing years, particularly with the issuance of the 1939 White Paper, which restricted Jewish immigration to Palestine, had strained this relationship. As the war progressed, the question of Jewish suffering and the future of Jewish communities in Europe became increasingly central to discussions about the post-war order.

B. Purpose of the Paper

This paper aims to analyze the British commitment to the Jewish people as articulated in the New York Times article from October 6, 1940, in which Arthur Greenwood of the British War Cabinet pledged to ensure that the wrongs suffered by the Jewish people would be righted in the post-war world. This message was one of the first public declarations by the British government addressing the Jewish question since the outbreak of the war, signaling a commitment to justice and peace as foundational elements of the envisioned New World Order.

The paper will explore the implications of these pledges for post-war reconstruction, focusing on how they were intended to shape the future of Europe and the Jewish people. It will examine the promises made in the context of wartime rhetoric, analyzing how they were influenced by both humanitarian concerns and strategic considerations. Furthermore, the paper will assess the extent to which these pledges were fulfilled in the aftermath of the war, particularly in relation to the establishment of the State of Israel and the broader global order that emerged from the conflict.

By situating Britain's war aims within the broader historical and geopolitical framework of World War II, this paper will provide a nuanced understanding of the British government's commitment to the Jewish community. It will also consider the broader implications of these pledges for international law, human rights, and the post-war world order, offering insights into the ways in which wartime promises shaped the modern world.

II. The British War Cabinet's Pledge

A. Arthur Greenwood's Message

Arthur Greenwood's message, delivered in October 1940, marked a significant moment in Britain's wartime diplomacy and its relationship with the Jewish community. As a senior member of the British War Cabinet and Deputy Leader of the Labour Party, Greenwood's words carried substantial weight, representing not just a personal sentiment but the collective voice of the British government. His speech, which was addressed to Dr. Stephen S. Wise, a prominent Jewish

leader in the United States, was a clear declaration of Britain's commitment to addressing the injustices suffered by Jews under Nazi rule and its intentions for their future in the post-war world.

1. Detailed Analysis of Greenwood's Speech:

- **Content and Rhetoric:** Greenwood's speech was both a moral and political statement. He assured the Jewish people of Britain's recognition of their suffering under Nazi persecution, acknowledging the tragic fate of European Jewry as victims of Hitler's regime. The speech emphasized the need for justice and the rectification of wrongs, signaling Britain's intention to play a pivotal role in ensuring that these injustices would not go unanswered. Greenwood's rhetoric was one of empathy and solidarity, expressing a commitment to the ideals of justice and peace that would underpin the post-war order.
- **Political Significance:** The timing of Greenwood's message was crucial. Delivered at a moment when Britain was isolated and under siege, the speech served multiple purposes. Domestically, it reassured the British public and Jewish communities that their government was committed to fighting not only for Britain's survival but also for the moral cause of justice. Internationally, particularly in the United States, the speech was a strategic move to garner support among Jewish Americans and other influential groups, reinforcing the moral legitimacy of Britain's war aims. It was also a message to the Axis powers, asserting that the atrocities committed by Nazi Germany would not be tolerated and would be addressed in the post-war settlement.

2. The Role of the British War Cabinet in Shaping War Aims:

- **Strategic and Moral Objectives:** The British War Cabinet, under the leadership of Winston Churchill, was responsible for directing Britain's war effort and shaping its broader objectives. While the primary aim was the defeat of Nazi Germany, the War Cabinet also had to consider the moral and ethical dimensions of the conflict. Greenwood's speech reflected the War Cabinet's recognition that the war was not just a military struggle but a battle for the very principles of civilization, including justice, human rights, and the protection of minority communities. By pledging to right the

wrongs suffered by the Jewish people, the War Cabinet positioned itself as a champion of these values, aligning Britain's war aims with a broader vision of global justice and post-war reconstruction.

- **Diplomatic Implications:** The speech also had significant diplomatic implications. It was part of a broader effort by the British government to secure international support, particularly from the United States, where public opinion was still divided on direct involvement in the war. By highlighting Britain's commitment to justice for the Jewish people, Greenwood's message sought to appeal to American sensibilities and to counter Nazi propaganda that portrayed the Allies as morally equivalent to the Axis. The pledge was also a signal to other occupied and oppressed peoples that Britain stood for their liberation and would work towards a just and equitable post-war world.

B. Comparison with the Balfour Declaration

The Balfour Declaration of 1917 was a seminal document in the history of British-Jewish relations and the broader Zionist movement. Issued by British Foreign Secretary Arthur Balfour during World War I, the declaration expressed the British government's support for the establishment of a "national home for the Jewish people" in Palestine. This marked the first time a major world power had officially endorsed Zionist aspirations, laying the groundwork for future developments in the Middle East.

1. Historical Background on the Balfour Declaration of 1917:

- **Context and Motivations:** The Balfour Declaration was issued at a time when Britain was seeking to secure its strategic interests in the Middle East, particularly as World War I continued to rage. The declaration was partly motivated by a desire to gain Jewish support for the Allied cause, especially in the United States and Russia, where Jewish communities held significant influence. Additionally, Britain sought to counteract similar overtures from Germany and its allies. The declaration was deliberately vague, with the phrase "national home" allowing for multiple interpretations, which led to considerable debate and controversy in the years that followed.

- **Impact and Legacy:** The Balfour Declaration had profound implications for the Middle East and for Jewish history. It was a key factor in the eventual establishment of the State of Israel in 1948, though it also contributed to ongoing conflict between Jews and Arabs in the region. The declaration's ambiguity regarding the political status of Jews in Palestine and the rights of the Arab population set the stage for future tensions. Nevertheless, the Balfour Declaration remains a cornerstone of Zionist history and a significant example of British wartime diplomacy.

2. How Greenwood's Message Builds on or Diverges from Previous British Commitments:

- **Building on the Balfour Declaration:** Greenwood's speech in 1940 can be seen as a continuation of the commitment made in the Balfour Declaration, particularly in its acknowledgment of the Jewish people's suffering and the need to secure their future. By pledging to right the wrongs inflicted upon Jews during the war, Greenwood's message echoed the spirit of the Balfour Declaration, reaffirming Britain's role as a protector of Jewish interests. The speech also reinforced the idea that the Jewish people had a unique place in the post-war order, deserving of special consideration due to the horrors they had endured.
- **Divergence and Evolution:** However, there were also significant differences between Greenwood's message and the Balfour Declaration. While the Balfour Declaration focused specifically on the establishment of a national home in Palestine, Greenwood's speech was more concerned with the broader question of justice and restitution for Jews throughout Europe. The emphasis had shifted from the specific goal of establishing a state in Palestine to a more general commitment to Jewish welfare and human rights. This evolution reflected the changing circumstances of the time, with the immediate need to address the consequences of Nazi atrocities taking precedence over long-term geopolitical considerations.
- **Responses to Both Declarations:** The responses to both the Balfour Declaration and Greenwood's speech were mixed, reflecting the complex and often conflicting interests at play. Zionist leaders welcomed both statements as evidence of British support, though they were often

frustrated by the lack of concrete action or clarity. Conversely, Arab leaders and communities in Palestine viewed the Balfour Declaration as a betrayal, leading to widespread unrest and opposition. Greenwood's speech, while more focused on the European context, also faced scrutiny from various quarters, with some questioning Britain's ability or willingness to fulfill its promises.

In summary, Arthur Greenwood's message in 1940 can be seen as both a continuation and an evolution of Britain's earlier commitments to the Jewish people, building on the legacy of the Balfour Declaration while also responding to the new realities of World War II. The pledge to right the wrongs suffered by Jews was a powerful statement of Britain's moral and political objectives, reflecting the broader goals of the Allied war effort and the envisioned New World Order.

III. The Jewish Question in Wartime Britain

A. The Plight of European Jewry

The plight of European Jewry in 1940 was marked by escalating persecution and an increasingly dire humanitarian crisis. Nazi Germany, under Adolf Hitler, had implemented a systematic campaign to marginalize, disenfranchise, and ultimately annihilate the Jewish population of Europe. This process began with discriminatory laws, such as the Nuremberg Laws of 1935, which stripped Jews of their civil rights and segregated them from the rest of German society. By 1940, the situation had deteriorated dramatically, with Jews facing widespread violence, forced relocations, and the early stages of what would become the Holocaust.

1. The Conditions Facing Jews in Nazi-Occupied Europe in 1940:

- **Ghettoization and Early Atrocities:** In 1940, Nazi policies had already led to the establishment of ghettos in occupied Poland and other parts of Eastern Europe. Jews were forcibly relocated to these overcrowded and unsanitary ghettos, where they were subjected to starvation, disease, and brutal treatment by the occupying forces. The Warsaw Ghetto, established in October 1940, became a symbol of this oppression, with its population of hundreds of thousands suffering under inhumane conditions. Reports of

mass shootings and other atrocities were beginning to reach the outside world, although the full extent of the genocide was not yet widely known.

- **The Evacuation and Displacement of Jewish Populations:** As the Nazis advanced through Europe, Jewish populations were uprooted from their homes and deported to concentration camps or ghettos. The Nazi occupation of Western Europe brought new dangers for Jewish communities in France, Belgium, the Netherlands, and beyond. Many Jews sought refuge in neutral or Allied countries, but restrictive immigration policies and the challenges of wartime travel made escape difficult. The British government, while sympathetic to the plight of Jews, had imposed strict limits on immigration to Palestine under the 1939 White Paper, leading to frustration and despair among those seeking refuge.
- **The Growing Awareness of the Jewish Crisis:** By 1940, the Jewish question was gaining increased attention in Britain and other Allied nations, largely due to the efforts of Jewish advocacy groups and the dissemination of information about Nazi atrocities. Newspapers, although censored during wartime, began to report on the conditions in Nazi-occupied territories, contributing to a growing awareness of the humanitarian crisis facing European Jewry. However, the British public and government were still largely focused on the immediate military challenges of the war, and the full horror of the Holocaust would only become widely known later in the conflict.

2. How the British Government's Stance Was Perceived by Jewish Communities Worldwide:

- **Frustration and Disillusionment:** The British government's policies, particularly the restrictions on Jewish immigration to Palestine, were a source of significant frustration for Jewish communities worldwide. The 1939 White Paper, which capped Jewish immigration to Palestine at 75,000 over five years, was seen as a betrayal by many Zionists who had hoped for British support in establishing a Jewish state. This policy was perceived as a concession to Arab opposition and a retreat from the promises made in the Balfour Declaration. As Nazi persecution intensified, the inability to secure

refuge in Palestine or other safe havens became a matter of life and death for many Jews.

- **Hope and Skepticism:** Despite the disappointment with British immigration policy, there was still a measure of hope that Britain, as a leading Allied power, would ultimately intervene on behalf of the Jewish people. Arthur Greenwood's 1940 speech, pledging to right the wrongs suffered by Jews, was met with cautious optimism. Jewish leaders in the United States and elsewhere recognized the significance of such a statement but remained skeptical about Britain's willingness and ability to follow through on these promises. The ongoing war and Britain's precarious position in 1940 made any immediate action on the Jewish question unlikely, contributing to a sense of uncertainty and anxiety among Jewish communities.
- **The Role of Jewish Advocacy in Shaping Perceptions:** Jewish advocacy groups, particularly in the United States, played a crucial role in shaping perceptions of the British government's stance. Leaders like Dr. Stephen S. Wise, who received Greenwood's message, worked tirelessly to mobilize support for the Jewish cause and to pressure the British and American governments to take more decisive action. These efforts were instrumental in keeping the Jewish question on the agenda, even as the war raged on and other concerns competed for attention. The advocacy of Jewish leaders helped to maintain a sense of urgency and hope, despite the many setbacks and challenges.

B. Political and Social Considerations

The Jewish question in wartime Britain was not only a matter of humanitarian concern but also a complex political issue with significant domestic and international implications. The British government had to navigate a delicate balance between competing interests, both at home and abroad, while also responding to the growing crisis faced by European Jewry.

1. The Influence of Jewish Advocacy Groups and Leaders Like Dr. S. S. Wise:

- **Advocacy in the United States:** Dr. Stephen S. Wise, a prominent American rabbi and Zionist leader, was one of the most influential figures in advocating for Jewish interests during the war. As a leader of the World

Jewish Congress and other organizations, Wise was a key interlocutor between the Jewish community and the British government. His efforts to raise awareness of the plight of European Jews and to lobby for increased immigration opportunities were central to the international response to the Jewish question. Wise's receipt of Greenwood's message in 1940 was a testament to the close ties between Jewish advocacy groups and the British government, as well as the importance of transatlantic cooperation in addressing the crisis.

- **British Zionist and Jewish Organizations:** Within Britain, Zionist and Jewish organizations also played a significant role in shaping public opinion and influencing government policy. Groups like the Board of Deputies of British Jews and the Jewish Agency for Palestine worked to mobilize support for the Jewish cause, both among the general public and within the corridors of power. These organizations were instrumental in advocating for Jewish rights, including the right to emigrate to Palestine, and in countering anti-Semitic sentiments that occasionally surfaced in British society. Their efforts were crucial in maintaining pressure on the government to address the Jewish question, even as Britain faced existential threats from Nazi Germany.

2. British Domestic and International Concerns Regarding the Jewish Question:

- **Domestic Political Considerations:** The Jewish question intersected with broader domestic political concerns in Britain, particularly regarding public opinion and the need to maintain national unity during the war. Anti-Semitism, while less pervasive than in some other European countries, was still a factor in British society, and the government had to be mindful of potential backlash against Jewish refugees or perceived favoritism towards Jewish interests. At the same time, the Labour Party, of which Arthur Greenwood was a leading figure, had a strong tradition of supporting minority rights and internationalism, which influenced the War Cabinet's approach to the Jewish question.
- **International Diplomacy and the Middle East:** Internationally, the Jewish question was deeply intertwined with Britain's strategic interests in the Middle East. The 1939 White Paper, which restricted Jewish immigration to

Palestine, was partly a response to the Arab revolt and the need to maintain stability in a region that was critical to British imperial interests. Balancing the demands of Zionist groups with the need to appease Arab leaders was a constant challenge for British policymakers. The war further complicated this delicate balance, as Britain sought to secure Arab support against the Axis powers while also addressing the mounting humanitarian crisis facing European Jews.

- **The Impact of Wartime Alliances:** Britain's alliances during the war, particularly with the United States and the Soviet Union, also influenced its approach to the Jewish question. The need to maintain strong ties with the United States, where Jewish advocacy groups wielded considerable influence, encouraged the British government to issue statements like Greenwood's pledge. However, Britain also had to navigate its relationship with the Soviet Union, which had its own complex policies towards Jews and Zionism. The interplay of these alliances shaped the British government's public and private positions on the Jewish question, as it sought to balance moral imperatives with strategic realities.

In summary, the Jewish question in wartime Britain was shaped by a combination of humanitarian concern, political calculation, and international diplomacy. The plight of European Jewry, coupled with the efforts of Jewish advocacy groups and the broader geopolitical context, forced the British government to confront difficult questions about its responsibilities and its role in the post-war world. Arthur Greenwood's message was a reflection of these complexities, offering a commitment to justice and restitution while navigating the challenging realities of wartime Britain.

IV. The New World Order: Ideals and Realities

A. The Concept of a New World Order

The phrase "New World Order" has its roots in the complex geopolitical landscape of World War II and the aspirations of the Allied powers for a better, more stable world after the defeat of the Axis. The concept was not entirely new but was reinvigorated during the war as leaders and thinkers began to envision a post-war

era where the mistakes that led to the conflict could be avoided, and where international cooperation would replace the aggressive nationalism and militarism that had plunged the world into war twice in less than half a century.

1. Definition and Origins of the "New World Order" in Wartime Rhetoric:

- **Historical Context and Development:** The idea of a "New World Order" can be traced back to earlier periods of significant global change, such as the aftermath of the Napoleonic Wars and World War I, where leaders sought to restructure international relations to prevent future conflicts. However, during World War II, the term took on new urgency and meaning as the world faced unprecedented levels of destruction and suffering. The rhetoric of a New World Order began to appear prominently in speeches and writings from Allied leaders, who saw the war not just as a struggle for survival, but as an opportunity to reshape the global order in a way that would promote lasting peace and prevent the recurrence of such a devastating conflict.
- **The Role of Key Allied Leaders:** Figures like Winston Churchill, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and later, Harry S. Truman, were instrumental in popularizing the idea of a New World Order. In his famous "Atlantic Charter" speech of 1941, Churchill, alongside Roosevelt, articulated a vision for the post-war world that included self-determination, economic cooperation, and collective security. This vision was the foundation for what would later become the United Nations, an institution explicitly designed to uphold the principles of the New World Order by fostering international cooperation and preventing conflicts through diplomacy and collective action.
- **Rhetorical and Propaganda Use:** During the war, the concept of a New World Order was also used as a powerful tool of propaganda. It served to unify the Allied nations around a common cause and to differentiate their goals from those of the Axis powers, which were portrayed as aggressive, expansionist, and destructive. The New World Order was presented as the antithesis of Nazi and Fascist ambitions, emphasizing democracy, human rights, and the rule of law as the foundations of the future global system. This messaging was crucial in maintaining public support for the war effort

and in justifying the immense sacrifices being made by millions of people across the Allied nations.

2. British and Allied Visions for Post-War Global Governance and Justice:

- **The United Nations and Collective Security:** One of the central pillars of the New World Order envisioned by the Allies was the establishment of a global organization dedicated to maintaining peace and security. This idea culminated in the creation of the United Nations in 1945, an institution that embodied the principles of collective security, where international disputes could be resolved through dialogue and legal frameworks rather than through war. The UN Charter reflected the lessons learned from the failures of the League of Nations, which had been unable to prevent the outbreak of World War II, and sought to create a more effective system of global governance.
- **Justice for War Crimes and Human Rights:** Another critical aspect of the Allied vision for the New World Order was the establishment of justice for the atrocities committed during the war. This led to the Nuremberg Trials, where key figures of the Nazi regime were prosecuted for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide. The trials set important precedents for international law and the concept of accountability for leaders who commit gross violations of human rights. The emphasis on justice was a core component of the New World Order, reflecting a commitment to ensuring that the horrors of the Holocaust and other wartime atrocities would not go unpunished and would serve as a deterrent for future generations.
- **Economic Reconstruction and Cooperation:** Economic stability was seen as a prerequisite for lasting peace, and the Allied vision for the New World Order included plans for the economic reconstruction of war-torn nations, particularly in Europe. The Marshall Plan, initiated by the United States, was a key element of this strategy, providing financial assistance to rebuild economies, restore infrastructure, and prevent the spread of communism by fostering prosperity and stability. Economic cooperation was also institutionalized through organizations like the International Monetary

Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, which were created to promote global financial stability and development.

- **Self-Determination and Decolonization:** The New World Order also encompassed the principle of self-determination, which was particularly relevant to the colonial empires of Britain, France, and other European powers. The war had exposed the contradictions between the Allies' rhetoric of freedom and democracy and their colonial practices. As part of the post-war settlement, there was a growing recognition that colonial subjects had the right to govern themselves, leading to the eventual decolonization of much of Asia and Africa in the decades that followed. This shift was seen as essential to creating a more just and equitable global order, though the process was fraught with challenges and resistance.

B. The Role of Justice and Peace

The ideals of justice and peace were central to the New World Order envisioned by the British government and its Allies. These principles were not only moral imperatives but also pragmatic strategies aimed at preventing future conflicts and ensuring that the post-war world would be stable and prosperous. The integration of these ideals into British war aims reflected a broader commitment to addressing the root causes of conflict and creating a framework for enduring peace.

1. How the Ideals of Justice and Peace Were Integrated into British War Aims:

- **Moral and Ethical Foundations:** From the outset of World War II, British leaders framed the conflict as a moral struggle between good and evil, between the values of freedom and democracy and the tyranny of fascism. This moral framing was crucial in justifying the war effort to the British public and in garnering international support. As the war progressed, the commitment to justice and peace became more explicitly articulated in British war aims, particularly as evidence of Nazi atrocities emerged. The notion that the war was being fought not just for national survival, but for the principles of justice and human dignity, became a powerful rallying cry.
- **Post-War Planning and the Emphasis on Justice:** British planners were acutely aware that the end of the war would require more than just the

cessation of hostilities; it would demand a comprehensive approach to justice. This included holding war criminals accountable, compensating victims, and ensuring that the peace settlement addressed the causes of the conflict. The emphasis on justice was evident in the planning for the Nuremberg Trials and the broader efforts to establish international legal norms that would prevent the recurrence of such crimes. The commitment to peace was equally strong, with British leaders advocating for the creation of international institutions that would mediate disputes and foster cooperation.

- **The Role of Diplomacy and International Law:** Diplomacy and international law were seen as essential tools for achieving the ideals of justice and peace in the post-war world. The British government played a leading role in the negotiations that led to the establishment of the United Nations and other international bodies. These institutions were designed to provide a forum for resolving conflicts peacefully, to promote human rights, and to facilitate cooperation on global challenges. The integration of justice and peace into British war aims was thus closely linked to the creation of a new international order that would be based on the rule of law rather than the arbitrary exercise of power.

2. The Anticipated Role of Jewish People in the Rebuilding of Post-War Europe:

- **Restitution and the Righting of Wrongs:** As part of the broader commitment to justice, British leaders recognized the need to address the suffering of the Jewish people and to ensure that they played a central role in the rebuilding of post-war Europe. This included efforts to restore property and rights to Jewish survivors, to provide compensation for the losses they had suffered, and to facilitate their participation in the reconstruction of European society. The British government also supported the idea of Jewish migration to Palestine, although this was complicated by the conflicting demands of Arab and Jewish populations in the region.
- **Zionism and the Establishment of a Jewish State:** The Zionist movement, which had gained momentum during the interwar period, saw the post-war era as a critical opportunity to achieve the goal of establishing a Jewish state in Palestine. The British government, while committed to the Balfour

Declaration’s promise of a "national home for the Jewish people," had to navigate the complex and often conflicting demands of Jewish and Arab communities. The anticipated role of Jewish people in the New World Order included the possibility of statehood, but this was tempered by geopolitical considerations and the need to maintain stability in the Middle East. The eventual establishment of Israel in 1948, with British support, was a significant, though contentious, outcome of these efforts.

- **Jewish Contributions to European Reconstruction:** Beyond the question of statehood, Jewish people were also expected to play a vital role in the broader reconstruction of Europe. Jewish intellectuals, professionals, and laborers were seen as essential to the economic and cultural revitalization of war-torn countries. The British government and other Allied powers recognized that the reintegration of Jewish survivors into European society would be crucial to the success of post-war recovery efforts. This recognition was part of the broader commitment to justice, ensuring that those who had suffered the most would have the opportunity to contribute to and benefit from the peace that followed.
- **Challenges and Realities:** However, the integration of Jewish people into the New World Order was not without its challenges. Anti-Semitism remained a persistent problem in many parts of Europe, and the displacement and trauma experienced by Jewish survivors created significant obstacles to their full participation in post-war society. The British government, while committed in principle to justice and restitution, faced difficulties in translating these ideals into reality. The tensions between Zionist aspirations and Arab opposition, the logistical challenges of resettlement, and the broader political complexities of the post-war period all contributed to a mixed outcome for the Jewish community.

In conclusion, the concept of a New World Order during World War II was a reflection of the Allied powers' aspirations for a just and peaceful post-war world. For Britain, this vision was deeply intertwined with the principles of justice and peace, which were integrated into the nation's war aims and post-war planning. The role of Jewish people in this New World Order was anticipated to be significant, both in terms of their contributions to the rebuilding of Europe and in

the potential establishment of a Jewish state. While the ideals of the New World Order were noble, the realities of post-war reconstruction presented numerous challenges that shaped the outcomes in complex and often unpredictable ways.

V. Mobilization and Military Strategy

A. The Call for American Involvement

By 1940, the European theater of World War II had become increasingly desperate for the Allied forces, particularly for Britain, which was facing the might of Nazi Germany largely on its own. The appeal for American involvement, as highlighted in the newspaper clipping, was a critical component of British strategy. This call was not merely a request for aid but an urgent plea for active participation by the United States in the military conflict, which was seen as essential for the survival of the free world and the eventual defeat of the Axis powers.

1. Analysis of the Appeal for American Military Contribution as Stated in the Clipping:

- **The Emotional and Moral Appeal:** The clipping reflects a direct and emotional appeal to the American public, emphasizing the monumental task ahead and the necessity of American involvement to achieve victory. The message underscores the gravity of the situation by stating that "TEN MILLION AMERICAN BOYS Will Be Needed To Do The Job," which conveys both the scale of the conflict and the significant human cost that would be required. This appeal was designed to resonate with the American public's sense of duty and justice, linking the war effort to broader themes of freedom and the defense of Western civilization.
- **Political and Diplomatic Context:** At the time, the United States was officially neutral, with isolationist sentiments still strong among both the public and in Congress. However, Britain recognized that American entry into the war was crucial for tipping the balance in favor of the Allies. The appeal for American involvement was part of a broader British diplomatic strategy to persuade the United States to abandon its isolationism and take a more active role in the conflict. This was achieved through a combination

of public appeals, like the one in the clipping, and private diplomatic efforts, including discussions between British leaders and American officials.

- **The Role of Media and Public Opinion:** The newspaper clipping reflects the use of media as a tool to shape public opinion and build support for American involvement. British leaders, including Prime Minister Winston Churchill, understood the power of the press in influencing American attitudes towards the war. By highlighting the moral imperatives of the conflict and the shared values between Britain and the United States, the British government sought to create a sense of urgency and moral responsibility among the American people. This strategy was part of a broader campaign that included speeches, radio broadcasts, and other forms of communication aimed at winning American hearts and minds.

2. The Strategic Importance of American Involvement in the European Theater:

- **Military Resources and Industrial Capacity:** The United States, with its vast industrial capacity and manpower, was seen as the decisive factor in the Allied victory. Britain's resources were stretched thin, and while it could continue to resist Nazi aggression, it lacked the means to launch a successful counter-offensive without significant external support. American involvement promised a massive influx of troops, equipment, and financial resources that could turn the tide of the war. The strategic importance of American military contributions was not just in numbers, but in the technological and logistical support that the U.S. could provide, which was unmatched by any other nation at the time.
- **The Impact on Allied Morale and Coordination:** American involvement also had a profound impact on Allied morale. The entry of the United States into the war would signal a shift in momentum, providing a much-needed boost to the morale of British and other Allied forces who had been fighting a seemingly losing battle. Moreover, the presence of American troops and leadership in the European theater would enhance coordination among the Allies, leading to more effective military strategies and operations. The strategic command structure of the Allied forces, which eventually included

American generals like Dwight D. Eisenhower, benefited greatly from the integration of American military power.

- **The Broader Implications for Global Strategy:** The strategic importance of American involvement extended beyond the European theater. The United States' entry into the war marked the beginning of its emergence as a global superpower, with interests and influence extending across the world. The coordination between the European and Pacific theaters, and the eventual strategy of defeating Germany first before turning full attention to Japan, were possible only with American participation. The U.S. also played a crucial role in shaping the post-war world, including the creation of international institutions like the United Nations, which were central to the New World Order envisioned by the Allies.

B. Implications for the Jewish Community

The potential impact of an Allied victory on the Jewish community was profound, with the defeat of Nazi Germany seen as the essential first step in ending the systematic persecution and extermination of Jews in Europe. However, beyond the immediate cessation of the Holocaust, the Allied victory also carried significant implications for the future of Jewish resettlement, restoration, and participation in the post-war order.

1. The Potential Impact of Allied Victory on Jewish Resettlement and Restoration:

- **Ending the Holocaust and Liberating the Camps:** The most immediate and crucial impact of an Allied victory was the liberation of the concentration and extermination camps where millions of Jews were being systematically murdered. The end of the Nazi regime was the only way to stop the Holocaust and save those Jews who had survived the horrors of the ghettos and camps. The liberation of these camps, which began in 1944 and continued through 1945, revealed the full extent of the Nazi atrocities to the world and underscored the importance of Allied military success for the survival of the Jewish people.
- **Challenges of Displacement and Resettlement:** The defeat of the Axis powers, however, did not immediately solve the complex issue of Jewish

resettlement. Many Jewish survivors found themselves displaced, their homes and communities destroyed, and their families decimated. The British government, along with other Allied nations, faced the daunting task of resettling these displaced persons, many of whom could not or did not wish to return to their countries of origin. The question of where these Jews could rebuild their lives became a central issue, leading to debates over immigration policies, particularly regarding Palestine, and the role of international organizations in providing aid and support.

- **The Role of Palestine and Zionist Aspirations:** For many Jews, Palestine represented not just a place of refuge, but the fulfillment of a long-held dream of establishing a Jewish homeland. The British government, which held the mandate for Palestine, was under intense pressure from Zionist organizations to allow increased Jewish immigration and to support the establishment of a Jewish state. The aftermath of the war saw a surge in Jewish immigration to Palestine, despite British restrictions, and the increasing violence between Jewish and Arab communities. The eventual creation of the State of Israel in 1948 was a direct result of these dynamics, though it also led to significant and ongoing conflict in the region.

2. The Expectations Placed on Jewish Contributions to the Post-War Order:

- **Jewish Participation in Rebuilding Europe:** As the war drew to a close, there were significant expectations placed on the Jewish community to contribute to the rebuilding of Europe. Jewish professionals, intellectuals, and laborers were seen as essential to the reconstruction efforts, particularly in countries that had lost much of their population and infrastructure during the war. Jewish contributions were expected in various fields, including science, medicine, education, and the arts, as well as in the broader project of rebuilding civil society and restoring democratic governance.
- **The Moral and Symbolic Role of the Jewish Community:** Beyond their practical contributions, the Jewish community was also expected to play a moral and symbolic role in the post-war order. The suffering of the Jews during the Holocaust had become a powerful symbol of the evil that the Allies were fighting against, and there was a widespread recognition that

addressing Jewish suffering was a moral imperative. This included efforts to provide restitution and compensation for the losses suffered during the war, as well as the establishment of memorials and educational programs to ensure that the horrors of the Holocaust were never forgotten.

- **The Emergence of Jewish Leadership in the New World Order:** In the wake of the war, Jewish leaders emerged as key figures in the new international order. Figures like Chaim Weizmann and David Ben-Gurion, who were instrumental in the establishment of Israel, as well as others who played significant roles in international organizations like the United Nations, became influential voices in shaping the post-war world. The Jewish community, which had been decimated by the war, nonetheless played a critical role in the creation of new institutions, the promotion of human rights, and the ongoing struggle for justice and peace.
- **Challenges and Realities in Jewish Integration:** Despite these expectations, the integration of Jewish survivors into the post-war order was not without its challenges. Anti-Semitism persisted in many parts of Europe, and the trauma experienced by Holocaust survivors made it difficult for many to reintegrate into society. The establishment of Israel, while fulfilling the Zionist dream, also led to significant geopolitical tensions in the Middle East that continue to affect global politics. The British government, which had played a central role in shaping the post-war settlement, faced criticism for its handling of the Jewish question, particularly in Palestine, where its policies were seen as contributing to the conflict between Jews and Arabs.

In conclusion, the mobilization and military strategy of the Allies, particularly the call for American involvement, were crucial to the eventual defeat of Nazi Germany and the liberation of Europe. For the Jewish community, Allied victory represented not just the end of the Holocaust, but the beginning of a new chapter in their history, with significant implications for resettlement, restoration, and participation in the post-war order. The expectations placed on Jewish contributions were both practical and symbolic, reflecting the community's central role in the moral narrative of the war and the challenges of building a just and lasting peace in the aftermath of such unprecedented destruction.

VI. Post-War Reflections and Outcomes

A. The Actual Post-War Settlement

The aftermath of World War II brought about a complex and multifaceted settlement that reshaped global politics, borders, and societies. The wartime promises made by Britain and the Allied powers, particularly regarding the Jewish community, were confronted with the harsh realities of post-war reconstruction, geopolitical tensions, and emerging ideological conflicts that would define the Cold War era.

1. What Happened After the War: Establishment of Israel, Displacement of Populations, and the Cold War Context:

- **The Establishment of Israel:** One of the most significant outcomes of the post-war settlement for the Jewish community was the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948. Following the horrors of the Holocaust, there was a strong international consensus that the Jewish people needed a homeland where they could live in security and self-determination. The British mandate in Palestine, which had been fraught with tensions between Jewish and Arab populations, ended in 1947 when the United Nations voted to partition the land into separate Jewish and Arab states. This decision, influenced by the Balfour Declaration and subsequent British wartime pledges, led to the declaration of Israeli independence on May 14, 1948. However, the establishment of Israel also sparked the first Arab-Israeli war, resulting in significant conflict, displacement, and long-standing regional tensions.
- **Displacement of Populations:** The aftermath of the war saw one of the largest forced migrations in human history. The redrawing of borders, particularly in Central and Eastern Europe, led to the displacement of millions of people, including Jews who had survived the Holocaust. Many Jewish survivors were unable or unwilling to return to their pre-war homes, either because they had been destroyed or because of lingering anti-Semitism. This led to a significant migration of Jews to Israel, the United States, and other countries. In the broader context, entire ethnic populations were relocated, such as the Germans from Eastern Europe, as

part of the Allied powers' efforts to create ethnically homogeneous states and prevent future conflicts.

- **The Cold War Context:** The post-war settlement was also shaped by the emerging Cold War between the United States and the Soviet Union. The ideological divide between East and West influenced the reconstruction of Europe and the fate of Jewish communities. The Soviet Union initially supported the establishment of Israel, seeing it as a potential ally in the Middle East, but later shifted its stance as Israel aligned more closely with the United States. The Cold War also affected Jewish communities in Eastern Europe, where Soviet domination imposed strict controls on religious and cultural expression. The broader struggle between communism and capitalism created a world divided into spheres of influence, complicating the efforts to address the Jewish question and other humanitarian issues left unresolved by the war.

2. Comparison Between Wartime Promises and Post-War Realities for Jewish Communities:

- **Fulfillment and Disappointment:** The wartime promises made by Britain and the Allied powers to right the wrongs suffered by the Jewish people were only partially fulfilled in the post-war settlement. On the one hand, the establishment of Israel represented a significant achievement for Zionist aspirations and a fulfillment of the Balfour Declaration's promise of a Jewish homeland. On the other hand, the reality of post-war Europe was marked by ongoing anti-Semitism, economic hardship, and the challenge of rebuilding communities that had been decimated by the Holocaust. Many Jewish survivors faced difficulties in reclaiming property, obtaining compensation, and reintegrating into societies that were still hostile or indifferent to their plight.
- **The Gap Between Rhetoric and Action:** The disparity between the wartime rhetoric of justice and the practical outcomes of the post-war settlement was stark. While Allied leaders had spoken of creating a world based on justice, peace, and human rights, the realities of power politics often took precedence. The partition of Palestine, for example, was a pragmatic solution to a complex problem, but it led to significant conflict and

displacement, rather than the peaceful coexistence that had been envisioned. Similarly, the promises of restitution and compensation for Jewish survivors were often delayed or inadequate, as economic constraints and political considerations took priority. This gap between promises and reality left many Jewish communities feeling betrayed and disillusioned, even as they sought to rebuild their lives in the shadow of the war.

- **Continuing Challenges and Conflicts:** The post-war period also saw the emergence of new challenges and conflicts for Jewish communities. In Israel, the nascent state faced immediate hostility from its Arab neighbors, leading to a series of wars and ongoing conflict over land and sovereignty. In Europe, Jewish communities had to navigate the complexities of Cold War politics, with some finding themselves under repressive regimes in the Eastern Bloc. The global Jewish diaspora continued to grapple with issues of identity, memory, and justice, as the horrors of the Holocaust remained a central, defining trauma. The post-war settlement, while providing some opportunities for renewal and rebuilding, also left many issues unresolved, leading to ongoing struggles for justice and recognition.

B. Legacy of British Wartime Promises

The wartime pledges made by Britain, particularly those concerning the Jewish community, had far-reaching consequences that extended well beyond the immediate post-war period. These promises shaped Jewish-British relations for decades to come and left a lasting impact on international law, human rights, and the global order that emerged in the second half of the 20th century.

1. Long-Term Effects of British Wartime Pledges on Jewish-British Relations:

- **Trust and Betrayal:** The relationship between Britain and the Jewish community was deeply affected by the wartime pledges and their subsequent fulfillment, or lack thereof. While the Balfour Declaration and subsequent wartime commitments laid the groundwork for the establishment of Israel, the British government's handling of Jewish immigration to Palestine during the war, particularly the restrictions imposed by the 1939 White Paper, led to feelings of betrayal among many Jews. This sense of betrayal was compounded by British actions during the

post-war period, such as the interception of Holocaust survivors attempting to reach Palestine and the British military's sometimes harsh enforcement of the mandate. These actions strained Jewish-British relations and contributed to a legacy of mistrust and resentment that persisted for many years.

- **Diplomatic and Political Consequences:** The British government's wartime pledges and subsequent actions also had significant diplomatic and political consequences. The establishment of Israel in 1948, which was supported by Britain but also complicated by its earlier policies, marked a turning point in Middle Eastern politics. Britain's role in the partition of Palestine and the creation of Israel influenced its relationships with both Jewish and Arab states, leading to a complex and often fraught diplomatic landscape. The legacy of British wartime promises continued to shape its foreign policy in the Middle East, particularly in relation to issues of peace, security, and the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict.
- **Cultural and Historical Memory:** The legacy of British wartime promises also became embedded in the cultural and historical memory of both Jewish and British communities. For the Jewish community, the promises and their fulfillment (or lack thereof) became part of the broader narrative of struggle, survival, and statehood. In Britain, the legacy of these promises was reflected in public debates about the country's role in the world, its imperial past, and its responsibilities to the Jewish people. This legacy continues to influence how both communities understand and interpret their shared history, as well as their respective roles in the contemporary world.

2. The Lasting Impact on International Law and the Concept of Human Rights:

- **The Foundation of Human Rights Law:** The horrors of World War II, particularly the Holocaust, led to a profound rethinking of international law and the concept of human rights. The British wartime promises, which emphasized justice and the righting of wrongs, were part of a broader movement towards the codification of human rights in the post-war period. The establishment of the United Nations and the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948 were direct responses to the atrocities

of the war and the need to prevent such horrors from ever happening again. British leaders, who had been instrumental in shaping the New World Order, played a key role in these developments, which have had a lasting impact on international law and the protection of human rights.

- **The Nuremberg Trials and Legal Precedents:** The Nuremberg Trials, which prosecuted Nazi leaders for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide, set important legal precedents that continue to influence international law. The British government, as part of the Allied powers, was deeply involved in these trials, which were seen as a fulfillment of the wartime promises to bring justice to the victims of the Holocaust. The principles established at Nuremberg, including the idea that individuals, including state leaders, could be held accountable for atrocities, have had a lasting impact on the development of international criminal law. These principles have been applied in subsequent trials for war crimes and have contributed to the establishment of institutions like the International Criminal Court.
- **The Evolution of Humanitarian Intervention:** The legacy of British wartime promises also contributed to the evolving concept of humanitarian intervention. The idea that the international community has a responsibility to intervene in cases of gross human rights violations has its roots in the post-war settlement and the principles espoused by the Allied powers during World War II. While this concept has been controversial and has led to debates about sovereignty and the use of force, it remains a key aspect of international relations. The British government's wartime rhetoric about justice and human rights has thus had a lasting influence on the ways in which the world responds to crises and conflicts that threaten the fundamental rights of individuals.
- **The Impact on Jewish Rights and Recognition:** The post-war settlement also had a significant impact on the recognition and protection …

VII. Conclusion

A. Summary of Key Findings

This paper has explored the intricate and impactful nature of Britain's wartime promises to the Jewish people, as articulated in the context of World War II, and the subsequent outcomes in the post-war period.

1. Britain's Wartime Pledges:

- We began by analyzing Arthur Greenwood's 1940 message, which marked a significant moment in British diplomacy and its commitment to addressing the injustices suffered by Jews under Nazi tyranny. Greenwood's pledge represented both a moral stance and a strategic effort to align British war aims with broader humanitarian goals.
- The examination of the broader concept of a "New World Order" during the war revealed how Britain and the Allies envisioned a post-war world rooted in justice, peace, and collective security. These ideals were integrated into British war aims and were reflected in the establishment of international institutions like the United Nations and the pursuit of justice through the Nuremberg Trials.

2. Post-War Realities:

- The paper also detailed the actual outcomes of the post-war settlement, including the establishment of the State of Israel, the displacement of populations, and the complex geopolitical landscape shaped by the onset of the Cold War. While some of the wartime promises were fulfilled, particularly in the creation of Israel, other promises fell short, as many Jewish communities faced ongoing challenges in post-war Europe.
- The legacy of British wartime promises was assessed in terms of their long-term effects on Jewish-British relations and their lasting impact on international law and the concept of human rights. The disparity between wartime rhetoric and post-war realities highlighted the complexities of translating moral commitments into concrete actions in a rapidly changing world.

3. Mobilization and Military Strategy:

- The strategic importance of American involvement in the war was emphasized, with Britain's appeals to the United States being crucial in securing the resources and military power necessary for an Allied victory. The implications of this involvement for the Jewish community were profound, both in terms of ending the Holocaust and in shaping the post-war order.

4. The Jewish Community's Role:

- Finally, the expectations placed on Jewish contributions to the post-war order were discussed, alongside the challenges faced by Jewish survivors as they sought to rebuild their lives in the aftermath of the war. The establishment of Israel and the broader Jewish role in post-war reconstruction were seen as key components of the new global order, though they were accompanied by significant difficulties and conflicts.

B. Implications for Historical Understanding

1. The Significance of Britain's Wartime Promises in Shaping Modern Jewish History:

- Britain's wartime promises to the Jewish people were instrumental in shaping modern Jewish history, particularly through the establishment of the State of Israel. The Balfour Declaration, reinforced by Greenwood's wartime pledge, laid the ideological groundwork for Zionist aspirations, which ultimately culminated in the creation of Israel. This has had a lasting impact not only on the Jewish people but also on the geopolitical landscape of the Middle East and global politics.
- However, the complexities of these promises, including the challenges of fulfilling them in a post-war context, have also led to enduring tensions, both within Jewish communities and between Jews and other populations, particularly in the Middle East. The legacy of these promises continues to influence Jewish identity, memory, and the ongoing quest for justice and security in a turbulent world.

2. Broader Reflections on the Use of Political Rhetoric During Wartime:

- The use of political rhetoric during wartime, as exemplified by Britain's pledges to the Jewish people, underscores the power of language in shaping both public perception and policy outcomes. Wartime rhetoric is often charged with moral imperatives and grand visions, which are necessary to mobilize support and justify the sacrifices required by war. However, the gap between such rhetoric and the practical realities of post-war settlement can lead to disillusionment and conflict when promises are not fully realized.
- The analysis of Britain's wartime promises reveals the dual nature of political rhetoric: while it can inspire and galvanize nations toward noble causes, it can also create expectations that are difficult to meet in the aftermath of conflict. This has important implications for understanding the role of political leaders in shaping historical events and for critically assessing the promises made in the heat of war.

3. Lessons for Future Generations:

- The examination of Britain's wartime promises and their outcomes provides valuable lessons for future generations about the importance of aligning rhetoric with action. It highlights the need for careful consideration of the long-term implications of wartime commitments and the importance of addressing the underlying causes of conflict to achieve lasting peace.
- As the world continues to grapple with issues of justice, human rights, and international security, the legacy of Britain's wartime promises serves as a reminder of the enduring impact of decisions made in moments of crisis. It calls for a thoughtful approach to international relations, one that balances moral imperatives with practical realities, and that strives to fulfill the promises made to those who suffer the most in times of war.

In conclusion, Britain's wartime promises to the Jewish people were a defining moment in the history of World War II and the post-war settlement. While these promises contributed to significant developments in Jewish history and international law, they also revealed the challenges of translating lofty ideals into tangible outcomes. The legacy of these promises continues to shape our world

today, offering both inspiration and caution as we navigate the complexities of global politics and human rights.

VIII. References

A. Primary Sources

Primary sources are invaluable for understanding the historical context and specific details of the events and pledges made during World War II. These documents offer direct insights into the attitudes, policies, and decisions of the time, providing a foundation for historical analysis.

1. The New York Times Article (October 6, 1940):

- The New York Times article from October 6, 1940, titled “New World Order Pledged to Jews,” serves as a key primary source for this paper. This article captures the public declaration made by Arthur Greenwood on behalf of the British War Cabinet, in which he assured the Jewish community of Britain's commitment to justice and the rectification of wrongs inflicted upon them by the Nazis. The article reflects the sentiments and political rhetoric of the time, offering a snapshot of how the British government’s stance was communicated to the American public and the broader international community. It provides a critical piece of evidence in understanding the promises made to the Jewish people during the war and the expectations set by British leaders.

2. The Balfour Declaration (1917):

- The Balfour Declaration, issued on November 2, 1917, by British Foreign Secretary Arthur Balfour, is another essential primary source. This document expressed British support for the establishment of a "national home for the Jewish people" in Palestine, marking a significant moment in the relationship between Britain and the Jewish community. The declaration is crucial for understanding the historical context of Britain’s wartime pledges and how these earlier commitments influenced later policies and rhetoric during World War II.

3. The Atlantic Charter (1941):

- The Atlantic Charter, a joint declaration made by Winston Churchill and Franklin D. Roosevelt in August 1941, outlines the Allied goals for the post-war world. This document is a primary source that helps to contextualize

the concept of the New World Order as envisioned by the Allied powers. It provides insights into the ideals of self-determination, economic cooperation, and collective security that underpinned British and Allied war aims, which were closely related to the promises made to the Jewish people.

4. Wartime Speeches and Communications by British Leaders:

- Speeches by key figures such as Winston Churchill, Arthur Greenwood, and others during World War II serve as primary sources that articulate Britain's war aims and commitments. These speeches, often delivered in the context of significant military and political events, provide a window into the evolving strategies and moral imperatives that guided British policies during the war. Transcripts and recordings of these speeches, available in archives and historical records, offer direct access to the rhetoric used to rally support for the war and to communicate Britain's vision for the post-war order.

5. The Nuremberg Trials Proceedings (1945-1946):

- The transcripts and documentation from the Nuremberg Trials, held from 1945 to 1946, are vital primary sources for understanding the legal and moral framework that emerged from World War II. These trials prosecuted major war criminals from the Nazi regime and established key precedents in international law. The proceedings and judgments from Nuremberg are directly connected to the wartime promises of justice and the effort to create a post-war order based on accountability and human rights.

B. Secondary Sources

Secondary sources provide scholarly analysis and interpretation of the events, policies, and outcomes related to Britain's wartime promises and their impact on the Jewish community and the broader post-war world. These works offer context, critique, and synthesis of primary sources, contributing to a deeper understanding of the historical narrative.

1. Scholarly Works on British War Aims:

- **"Churchill and the Jews: A Lifelong Friendship" by Martin Gilbert** (2007): This book explores Winston Churchill's relationship with the Jewish people, including his role in shaping British war aims and his support for the Zionist movement. Gilbert, a renowned historian and biographer of Churchill, provides a detailed account of how Churchill's views influenced British policies and the promises made to the Jewish community during World War II. This work is particularly valuable for understanding the personal and political dimensions of Britain's wartime commitments.
- **"Wartime: Understanding and Behavior in the Second World War" by Paul Fussell** (1989): This book provides a broader context for understanding the behavior, rhetoric, and strategies employed during World War II. While not focused exclusively on the Jewish question, Fussell's work offers insights into the cultural and psychological aspects of the war, helping to frame Britain's war aims within the larger tapestry of wartime behavior and propaganda.

2. Scholarly Works on the Holocaust:

- **"The Destruction of the European Jews" by Raul Hilberg** (1961, revised editions): This seminal work by Raul Hilberg is one of the most comprehensive studies of the Holocaust, documenting the systematic extermination of Jews in Nazi-occupied Europe. Hilberg's analysis provides essential context for understanding the urgency and significance of Britain's wartime promises to the Jewish people and the subsequent efforts to address the horrors of the Holocaust through post-war justice and restitution.
- **"Ordinary Men: Reserve Police Battalion 101 and the Final Solution in Poland" by Christopher R. Browning** (1992): Browning's study of the actions of ordinary German soldiers in the implementation of the Holocaust provides a detailed examination of the mechanisms of genocide. This work helps to contextualize the scale of the atrocities that British leaders were responding to in their wartime pledges, underscoring the moral imperatives that drove Allied war aims.

3. Scholarly Works on the Creation of Israel:

- **"Israel: A History" by Martin Gilbert** (1998): Martin Gilbert's comprehensive history of Israel traces the origins, creation, and development of the Jewish state. This work provides detailed coverage of the role of British policies and wartime promises in the establishment of Israel, as well as the broader geopolitical dynamics that influenced the post-war settlement. Gilbert's account is essential for understanding the fulfillment of British wartime promises in the context of Israel's creation.
- **"The Iron Wall: Israel and the Arab World" by Avi Shlaim** (2000): Avi Shlaim's book examines the complex and often contentious relationship between Israel and its Arab neighbors, with a focus on the policies and strategies that shaped the state's development. Shlaim's work provides critical insights into the long-term consequences of British wartime promises and the challenges of achieving lasting peace in the Middle East.

4. Scholarly Works on the New World Order and Post-War International Relations:

- **"The Origins of the Cold War: 1941-1949" by Martin McCauley** (1983): This book explores the origins and early years of the Cold War, providing context for the post-war settlement and the emergence of the New World Order. McCauley's analysis helps to situate Britain's wartime promises within the broader geopolitical shifts that characterized the post-war period, including the division of Europe and the rise of superpower tensions.
- **"A World Restored: Metternich, Castlereagh and the Problems of Peace, 1812-1822" by Henry Kissinger** (1957): Although focused on an earlier period of European diplomacy, Kissinger's work on the post-Napoleonic settlement offers valuable parallels for understanding the challenges of creating a New World Order after a major conflict. Kissinger's insights into the balance of power, diplomacy, and the pursuit of peace are relevant to the analysis of Britain's role in shaping the post-World War II settlement.

5. Scholarly Works on International Law and Human Rights:

- **"East West Street: On the Origins of Genocide and Crimes Against Humanity" by Philippe Sands** (2016): This book explores the origins of the legal concepts of genocide and crimes against humanity, tracing their development through the Nuremberg Trials and beyond. Sands' work is critical for understanding the legacy of British wartime promises in the context of international law and the protection of human rights.
- **"The International Criminal Court: A Global Civilizing Role?" by Mark D. Kielsgard** (2010): Kielsgard's analysis of the International Criminal Court (ICC) provides insights into the evolution of international criminal law and the enduring impact of the legal principles established after World War II. This work is relevant for understanding how Britain's wartime rhetoric about justice and accountability has influenced contemporary legal frameworks and institutions.

6. Archives and Historical Records:

- Archives such as the National Archives in the UK, the British Library, and the United Nations Archives hold a wealth of primary documents, including government correspondence, treaties, and meeting minutes, that provide further context for the wartime promises made by Britain. These records are indispensable for researchers seeking to understand the decision-making processes and the implementation of policies related to the Jewish community and the post-war order.

In conclusion, the primary and secondary sources referenced in this paper provide a comprehensive foundation for analyzing Britain's wartime promises to the Jewish people and the broader implications of these commitments in the post-war period. These sources enable a thorough examination of the historical context, the rhetoric and realities of wartime diplomacy, and the lasting impact of these promises on modern history and international law.